# The Niagara-on-the-Lake



Niagara **Trailers** helpina health care workers

page 2

The trusted voice of our community.

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# These are our heroes! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



To all of those who continue to work to supply us with all that is essential, thank you so much for putting yourselves at risk to keep us safe. This is just a snapshot of the many in town who go to work every day — we couldn't possibly cover every workplace. We know there are many, many others, especially our health care workers, who deserve the gratitude of this community. We can't say it often enough — thank you!

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## Niagara Long Term Care declares outbreak **Penny Coles**

The Local

Lord Mayor Betty Disero is hoping Niagara Region Public Health will release the number of COVID-19 cases in Niagaraon-the-Lake.

She has been working with the office of regional chair Jim Bradley to get those figures, and was told twice last week the information would be made available.

But by Tuesday, she had heard nothing, and she's frus-

Niagara Region Public Health is, however, releasing names of regional facilities that have an outbreak, and late Tuesday afternoon it reported Niagara Long Term Care, formerly Chartell, on Wellington Street, has a respiratory outbreak. It had not identified at that time whether or not it was COVID-19, or how many staff or residents were affected.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, the acting medical officer of health for Niagara Region, says with input from his team, he has made the decision not to release the number of cases, or deaths, by municipality — at least not yet.

The Region's website as of Tuesday morning was reporting 263 cases in Niagara, with 10 deaths. The number of cases of COVID-19 is updated daily, the number of deaths, weekly. Almost 11 per cent of the cases are health care workers, and 30 per cent were in long-term care homes. With other homes in the area declaring outbreaks, that number could be expected to change.

The Niagara Health website was reporting 22 deaths of patients who tested positive for COVID-19 Tuesday, although the virus was not necessarily the cause of death, the website says.

Hirji cites the right to privacy for those infected with the virus, and says with such low numbers in each municipality, they could be identified and stigmatized. He says one of the earliest affected individuals in Niagara was named in the press, with unfortunate consequences, and he doesn't want a repeat of that.

He's trying to reach a balance between giving members of the public the information they need to protect themselves, while not creating a situation where privacy could be a concern, or the numbers skewed, or "misrepresented" in communities.

released the number of cases in NOTL, and the next day there was an outbreak in one of the long-term care homes, those numbers could appear to double in a short time, and the attention of provincial and federal media could "damage the reputation" of the town.

"The outside media could come to unjustified conclusions. We don't want a misrepresentation of the results," says Hirji.

There were six long-term care homes in the region with cases of COVID-19 in Tuesday's report, and five others, includ-

For example, he says, if he ing the one in NOTL, with unknown respiratory outbreaks.

Hirji says releasing numbers in municipalities, which at this point would be low when broken down by 12, "won't inform the risk a great deal."

Most decisions regarding the handling of COVID-19 are made by the provincial and federal governments, not individual municipalities, he says.

If the number of cases increases significantly, he would consider changing his position, but he didn't think it would get there in the next week or so.

The lack of information re-

garding individual municipalities from the Region "is disappointing," says Disero.

"I received information from the chair's office a week ago that the information would be forthcoming. It's not happening."

Some of the numbers that are released are a week old, she

Having up-to-date information about what is happening in the community might help stress the need to stay home, she says.

"There are people who are dying, and the numbers of cases are increasing," says Disero. "That's my biggest concern."

# Town handling complaints

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Bylaw officers "were swamped" in Niagara-on-the-Lake over the holiday weekend, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

They were checking out complaints of holiday rentals that were occupied, and "all kinds of people parked along the Niagara Parkway," probably not from town.

The Town is "moving beyond education," handing out tickets to people who are not

staying home, she says.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall and Coun. Erwin Wiens have been traveling around to farms where offshore workers have arrived, making sure they have settled into their isolation and have the supplies they need.

There are some complaints coming into the Town, one about a busload of workers shopping, and others regarding the numbers in the vineyards, seemingly working too close

Wiens says "by and large

I've been very impressed," with adherence to guidelines, and efforts to ensure the workers are getting what they need in the way of food and supplies.

He says bylaw officers are at his disposal if he needs them, but most of the calls are unfounded, a result of the public misunderstanding what they're

"Bylaw officers are double-shifting. All of them are working," he says.

Temporary farm workers

Continued on page 5

#### Petrie family lending trailers to help isolating workers **Penny Coles** The Local

Lending 40 trailers to health care workers started with a Facebook post.

A nurse who wanted to protect family members from the COVID-19 pandemic, but didn't want to be too far away from them, was looking for a place to stay — either a hotel room or a small trailer.

John and Anna Petrie of Niagara Trailers in St. Davids knew they could help. A trailer in the nurse's driveway would be a better solution than a hotel room, says John, so they offered to have one delivered.

placed 40 units, about the maximum they can manage. "We don't have that many that are small enough to fit in a room nurses, and those who driveway," he says.

Although this would norlocal business, it isn't this year, prepare the trailers to be used, parents living with them, or a and to deliver them.

effort," says John.

Niagara Trailers has customers across Southern On- and risk infecting them.



John and Anna Petrie of Niagara Trailers are lending 40 trailers to health care workers who choose isolation to protect their families. (Photo supplied)

Since then, they have tario, and the trailers that have been lent out pretty much cover that area, he says.

They've gone to emergency work in long-term care homes, where the spread of the disease mally be a busy time for the is likely. Most of those looking for accommodation outside and staff have volunteered to their home either have senior spouse with health issues that "It's pretty much a group make them more vulnerable to the disease. They don't want to stay under the same roof

"They're making very difficult decisions to isolate from their families," says John. "In some cases they are isolating away from their kids."

They go where there is the most need, he says, including to one nurse in NOTL who is living with elderly parents.

"Everyone has a story, and we feel they're doing a lot more for us than we're doing for them. This is nothing compared to risking their lives to look after us on the front lines."

#### **Town Urges Compliance to COVID-19 Preventative Measures and Emergency Orders**

As the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's State of Emergency continues, and we enter this next phase of crisis management, we urge residents and businesses to comply with Emergency Orders implemented by the Provincial Government and preventative measures laid out by public health officials.

Practice physical distancing, wash your hands, don't touch your face, disinfect high touch surfaces and do not leave your home unless it is absolutely necessary. Anyone who has recently travelled must selfisolate for 14 days and non-essential businesses must close.

All outdoor recreational amenities are closed. Green spaces remain open for walk-through purposes but gatherings of more than five are prohibited. Remember, the virus doesn't travel, people do.

Community members looking to report a business or individual(s) operating in contravention of Emergency Orders, are asked to contact Niagara-on-the-Lake By-law Enforcement by email (covidcomplaints@ notl.com), phone (905-468-3266), or online complaint form at notl. com. After hours complaints or urgent issues can be reported to the Niagara Regional Police Services non-emergency line at 905-688-4111.

To review all Town updates related to COVID-19, read answers to frequently asked questions, and see up-to-date information on the status of Town services, please visit www.notl.com/COVID-19, or call 905-468-3266. Town Staff will continue to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday.

For immediate alerts, follow the Town on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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THE NOTL LOCAL

# NOTL Library staff use 3D printers to make face shields

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Two staff members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library are toiling at home, using the library's 3D printers to make face shields for local health care workers.

Library manager Laura Tait had never actually used the 3D printer, although she had watched kids learning the technology in the Makery room, when she was approached by a group of engineering and medical students from McMaster University and the University of Toronto asking for assistance with a design that had been successfully produced at Queen's University. The

students are hoping to produce 10,000 shields, and had emailed several libraries, but got little response, says Tait.

She and Matt Furlong, the library's IT coordinator, each took home one of the 3D printers, and set to work.

Tait also emailed NOTL resident Rene Bertschi, who has two printers, newer and more efficient than the equipment Tait and Furlong are using, and he agreed to help. "He attended one of the 3D Makery sessions at the library, and liked what it could do," she says. He quickly produced a batch of 100 shields, which went to Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto.

modified as requested by a make the shield, but if neceslocal doctor, and now they're hoping to produce 2,000 by the end of the month to go to Niagara hospitals.

With his newer equipment, Bertschi can print about four in an hour, while Tait says it took her a week to make 20. The equipment breaks down often, and although she's becoming adept at repairs, thanks to YouTube, it slows the process.

Once they get going, she and Furlong should be able to make about 130 a week each, she says, "and between the two of us, hopefully we can match

The library has a good The design has since been supply of the filament used to

sary, the students have let her know they can supply more material if needed, says Tait.

On Easter morning, she picked up shields from Furlong and Bertschi, and delivered 240 to a St. Catharines student involved in the project.

"I feel privileged we are able to help in some small way. In a situation like this, you feel pretty helpless. It feels pretty good to be able to do something."

Tait says she has had a "lovehate" relationship with the 3D printers, having watched kids come in to print little Pokeman figures, but not getting involved herself. "Then something like this comes along, and you realize how amazing it can be."

herself to contact other Niagara libraries with 3D printers to

She has also taken it upon get them involved, and some have offered to help, she says. "If I can do it, anybody can."



Laura Tait shows the part of the shield she is printing. The face covering is being attached by a group of university students, who designed the shield and hope to donate 10,000 shields to health care workers. (Photo supplied)

# Local design company sewing personal protective equipment

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

As we hear daily from health care officials and politicians of the need for personal protective equipment, the shortage of supplies, and the slow progress being made to meet the high demand, a local business owner decided to do something to help.

Simply White Interiors is a NOTL company offering design services that include custom drapery, bedding, and upholstery. When owner Brenda Petrunick had to put work on hold March 22, she realized her business has the talent, materials, and a large Airport Road workshop that could be put to work manufacturing protective items for health care workers.

Three of the company's seamstresses, sewing in a workshop set up with commercial-grade sewing machines, have turned their skills to producing personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, and even headbands that provide some relief from the discomfort caused by mask elastics.

Petrunick has also had requests from local retirement homes, and from nurses, for masks and headbands, and mawashable bags so they transport their daily scrubs safely.

room and realized I couldn't listen to the news anymore, so I started putting something together to help. I didn't feel good about doing nothing," she says.

She describes the project "as a puzzle, and everyone involved is a piece of that puzzle. Now we've got the pieces of the puzzle put together."

It took a few days to put all the pieces together, she says, including obtaining the materials she needs to produce the protective equipment.

One of her regular suppliers, Maxwell Fabrics in Vancouver, offers to donate fabric. The design she was planning for masks are fabric with a HEPA filter, and she thought she had a source for the filter, but that fell through. After purchasing filters herself, her friends Brett Sherlock and James Booty began collecting donations to help. After sending out letters to their friends, they received \$14,000 in donations in just a few days, including \$3,000 from local artist Ron Clavier from the sale of

one of his paintings. HEPA filters make up the majority of expenses, but Petrunick will also need to purchase more fabric for paramedic gowns, which have different requirements than hospital gowns, as well as for elastic for terial for the ties.

Gowns are being produced "I was sitting in my living for EMS Niagara paramedics, from a non-permeable fabric similar to what would be used for shower curtain liners, says Petrunick. She is also making



Seamstress Gloria-Jean Buczowski models a mask and gown made for local health care workers by Simply White Designs. (Photo supplied)

surgical caps for doctors and nurses from a template of those used in hospitals, she says.

The protective equipment will go to local hospitals and long-term care homes, who are reaching out to her for help, in addition to EMS.

"This is a time when everyone is being asked a lot. We have a demand, and we can help to fill it."

Petrunick is cutting material at home, and dropping the pieces off on the porches of three seamstresses volunteering their time. She is limiting the sewing to those three people in the workroom, she says.

who has received requests from 14 different organizations.

"This is a huge venture to

be ongoing. Maxwell Fabrics is willing to stand by us, even if it's six months from now — we don't know how long this need will go on."

Petrunick has health problems that put her at risk, so she is very sensitive to the importance of keeping front line health care workers healthy, for their families, and for all who will require their care.

"We just had to do something, like anybody else who could help. So many others are stepping up, and it's so good to see that. This is our contribution."

Anyone interested in doating can do so with a cheque "Nothing matters as much as payable to Simply White Inthis, for all of us," says Petrunick, teriors, with a memo noting COVID-19, or e-transfer to Kirk@swi.design.

#### Vineridge donates masks to fire department

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

With a shortage of masks for healthcare workers in Niagara and Ontario, Vineridge Academy has been pitching in to help.

Jade Winterbottom, who has been at the international school since the beginning, says more than 10,000 masks have already been distributed. Most have gone to hospitals in the Toronto area, but some have been donated locally as well.

"Everyone is in need, and the demand is high," says Winterbottom.

"We hear we're nearly out in the Niagara Region as well as in town," she says — some have already been distributed to the NOTL Fire & Emergency Services, and to the Niagara

Medical Clinic across the street from the school.

Last week, the Town's fire department accepted a donation of 500 surgical masks from Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark and Dr. Kevin Clark, from Niagaraon-the-Lake Dental.

Fire Chief Nick Ruller says the masks come at a critical time, helping to supply frontline workers during airway management procedures.

Friday, he and Deputy Chief Darren Trostenko were picking up 250 more masks from Vineridge.

The school is Chineseowned, with a large number of students from China. They are accustomed to wearing masks outdoors as part of their culture, even when they're not

#### Continued on page 4



Or, says Sherlock to his Deputy Fire Chief Darren Trostenko and Fire Chief Nick Ruller get into, and the demand will friends, drop a cheque off to him. pick up masks donated by Vineridge Academy. (Photo supplied)

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# EDITORIAL

# Kindness, tolerance, understanding and hope will get us through this

Who are our heroes?

There are so very many, too many to name, and to thank.

Doctors and nurses, those looking after seniors in care and seniors at home, and caring for all of those who are sick, whether with COVID-19 or whose care becomes exponentially more difficult because of the pressures on the system due to the virus.

They risk their lives and the lives of their family members every time they go to work, in too many cases without their full personal protective equipment. While we're told daily such equipment is on its way where needed, there are too many individual stories of continuing shortages, putting further stress on our health care workers and their families.

We hear of so many volunteers still doing what they can, including efforts to make

for hospitals but for others who we are supposed to venture out. much as the staff, and if our es-short-term rental operators are with different situations, differmay be near the bottom of the list to receive the gear they need. There are so many great stories of businesses and individuals trying to make stressful situations less so for all of us. To all of them, thank you!

We know there are many essential workers we don't see, such as the truckers who deliver food and supplies to stores, all our post office and other delivery staff, and those who clean everything from hospitals and long-term care homes to grocery stores and pharmacies. Again, there are far more than we can name, and many I'm sure we're forgetting, but thank you to all those who work behind the scenes, who we don't get a chance to thank in person.

Apparently some of us see our grocery store and convenience store staff on a daily basis,

Maybe we could rethink that.

We also hear from our essential workers that while most of the customers they see are cheerful, patient, resilient and grateful, a small number, frustrated by all that is going on around them, take it out on the staff.

One manager told us she hears from people who are angry one of her staff members is wearing gloves, and others who are angry when other staff are not. They don't like the caution in passing money and items across the counter because they're made to feel as if they are presenting some danger, and they're being told if they don't like working under the circumstances, they should stay home. And some are offended because they have to wait longer than they might normally. Really, all the precautions that are beprotective equipment not only we hear, much more often than ing taken protect customers as

sential workers become stressed from the bad behaviour of the public, when they are only doing their jobs and trying to keep themselves and us safe, they would be forgiven for deciding to stay home. That would be unfortunate for all of us.

We're hearing from the Town that bylaw officers are receiving loads of complaints, are trying to educate people before issuing fines, and that the complaints most often received are about short-term rental accommodations and other non-essential businesses still operating.

There are situations where and every one of us is dealing

allowed to make their accommodations available to someone who is self-isolating, but they are supposed to notify the Town so bylaw officers won't be putting themselves at risk by going to a door of someone who is sick or in quarantine. In the case of other businesses, the provincial legislation can be confusing, for business owners and for those requiring service, such as distinguishing between lawn maintenance, which is permitted, and undertaking new landscaping

Keeping in mind that each **Penny Coles** 

projects, which is not.

ent levels of stress and handling it all in different manifestations, we could all do with a reminder to focus on showing kindness, tolerance and understanding to those with whom we come into contact. That alone should make us all heroes! And hopefully, we will receive the same in

And while we're at it, let's focus on hope, that while this may not be over tomorrow, tomorrow can still be a good day. And one day, it will be over.

The Local

# **Decisions, decisions!**

sidered an essential service, we'd like to remind our readers that since advertising revenue is understandably decreasing, we're having to make decisions that will keep The Local sustainable for the future.

Like all businesses struggling through these times, we want to bounce back when this is over, so we are being cautious with how we operate today.

That is why you will see an eight-page paper, which is a first for us, but may not be the last.

However, we are also consid-

of printing and mailing.

If you don't see a copy of The Local in your mailbox and we understand many are not venturing out to their post office boxes — it will be available online at notllocal.com. Look along the bar at the top for current editions. It will also be readers and businesses, whose posted on Facebook Wednesday, and if you want us to let you know when it's available, email karen@notllocal.com and she will notify you.

We understand not every-

While newspapers are conering that next week may bring a one reads their news online, necessary, further scaling-down and we hope, at the minimum, we will at least be able to deliver copies of a printed edition to the local Avondales and grocery stores. Like most of you, we find we have to make our decisions one day at a time. We just don't know what tomorrow will bring.

And again, thank you to our support we appreciate more than you will ever know!

**Penny Coles and** Karen Skeoch The Local

# 'Loving small community feel'

I have just finished reading this week's Local - cover to cover as I always do.

I am very thankful to you for publishing many articles with positive upbeat messages during these challenging times, from stories about children in our community to those helping others to ads telling us what local businesses are still open and needing our support.

in December and are really appreciating the 'small community' feel - we are regretting that we cannot get to know our immediate neighbours during these times of social distancing, but your newspaper is giving a sense of the 'community' here that we will no doubt really enjoy once things get back to the 'new normal.' In the meantime, Ardeth and Rick Staz

We just moved to NOTL we appreciate learning from your publication about local businesses that we can support and we are enjoying trying to do that. Hopefully all of them will get back into full swing in a few months.

> Thank you for keeping up your publication through these difficult times!

# **Limited mask supply**

Continued from page 3

sick. Many of the students have returned home, and those who are left at the school are not going out. They are following strict rules of isolation and physical distancing as everyone else in town, so the school had a supply greater than what was needed, says Winterbottom.

The students in residence

have staff onsite 24/7, she says, with teachers who are at home, teaching their students online.

Vineridge still has a limited number of masks, she says, to be distributed by the school where needed, Winterbottom says.

The need for masks gives Vineridge the opportunity to do something positive in the community, and help out where needed, she says.

The original 10,000 were the N95 masks most valued by frontline workers. The ones available now will be surgical masks, which are also in short supply.

She is hoping local longterm care homes, and health care workers, will reach out if they need masks. She can be reached at 905-329-8936.

#### Easter at St. Mark's



An Easter service, without a congregation, was held at St. Mark's Sunday, and is available on video to watch. Interim Rector Lynne Marchant led the service, with music director James Bourne playing the organ and Atis Bankas of Music Niagara on the violin. To view the video, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh0nl8nABi8&feature=youtu.be.

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The trusted voice of our community

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April 16, 2020

# Local home for the holiday



Mike Balsom Special to The Local

It was an Easter most of us will never forget, celebrated as it was with physical distancing in place.

But for Connor Crickmore and his family, Easter 2020 will be memorable for other reasons.

Following a 46-hour journey from door to door, Connor finally arrived home in Niagara-on-the-Lake Sunday, after being stranded indefinitely in Nepal.

An experienced world traveller who has visited more than 90 different countries, Crickmore was in the area to take on the Annapurna Circuit Trek, mountain ranges of central Nepal. While deep into the journey, COVID-19 began to show itself in the country.

As he and his trekmates descended from Thorung La Pass, their next stop was in Muktinath. There they discovered their journey would be cut short by the pandemic.

Stuck in remote Nepal for a few days, they were finally able to arrange a gut-wrenching bus arriving in the capital city of Kathmandu on March 28. In the meantime, Nepal had put ment had taken notice came into place a ban on international flights until April 15, meaning Crickmore's ticket home for April 6 would be useless.

With help from his family back home, Crickmore set to work trying to convince the Canadian government to put together plans for a repatriation flight to get him and an estimated 1,100 other Canadian citizens out of Nepal.

He and other Canadians in his overstuffed Kathmandu home began just before 8 a.m. hostel were hearing about travellers being flown back to Canada from other countries, and were concerned Nepal seemed to be flying below the government's radar.

So, Crickmore and his para 21-day journey through the ents, Shari Hartwick and Randy Crickmore, got busy contacting as many people as they could to get the word out. At the same time, a change.org petition had begun to gather steam (at press time, it had over 7,200 signatures).

> One of those contacted was Billy Morrison, a NOTL native legislative assistant. "He was in Doha. passing along the newspaper articles and the CTV story (on my entitled to a \$50 to \$60 food

ride through the mountains, MPs) reading them, and so they were aware," says Crickmore.

> Finally, a sign the governon April 4, when Global Affairs spokesperson Krystyna Dodds announced the High Commission of Canada to India was arranging for a special flight out of Nepal to take place sometime last week. With not enough Canadians registering to fill the plane, government officials reached out to Australia and shared the flight to Doha, Qatar with that country's stranded citizens.

Crickmore's long journey Saturday morning, Nepal time.

"We waited there, outside, until about 11:30," says Crickmore. "They did some health screenings, then we got on the bus to the airport. When we arrived at the airport, it was kind of dead - we were the only ones there. Then they crammed us into a room, which broke all their previous social distancing orders."

The flight to Doha lasted just over seven hours, where Crickmore and other Canadians were faced with a 16-hour layover.

His frustrations with the Cawho is MP Tony Baldinelli's nadian government continued

"They didn't tell us we were plight), he watched them (other voucher while we were there, he says it's time for him to pur-

and food in the airport was expensive. We also found out later that we could have booked our trip to Montreal directly through Qatar Airways, which would have been much cheaper."

Crickmore and many others ended up whiling away the time sleeping on the floor.

At 4:30 p.m. Qatar time, he finally boarded the plane for the 13-hour trip to Montreal.

"Our flight to Montreal was a bigger plane, so I assume we picked up some other Canadians to fill the plane," he says.

In the end, 46 hours and \$3,500 later, he was greeted by his family at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

"My mom had to fight back some tears, for sure," he laughs. "I should say that she's used to the drill, but I don't think it gets any easier for her. Generally when I travel, it's for about nine months at a time."

He adds, "a lot of the things I do, I try not to tell her until afterward, so she doesn't worry. When I'm going into the Congo in the middle of a war, I tell her after I have come back safely and I have some photos to show her."

Mom Shari should feel better, then, about Conner's next adventure.

Set to turn 30 later this year,

Connor Crickmore got a flight from Nepal to bring him home in time for Easter. He is in isolation for 14 days, glad to be close to friends and family, including his mom, Shari Hartwick. (Photo supplied)

sue a career.

"This was the final hurrah," claims Crickmore. "I spent six years studying law (at Edith Cowan University in Australia, Carleton University and UiT-The Arctic University of Norway) and I haven't used it at all."

Though he could practise law in Norway, he hasn't earned a Canadian law degree or written the bar exam here. "I could still work in law, but I wouldn't be practising," he explains. "I could still be dealing with legal documents, but more on a corporate level."

Once he finds a job that calls sense, too."

on his studies, he's definitely a realist when it comes to his future travels. "Yeah, I'll be like everyone else, only able to get a couple of weeks off at a time. And, to be honest, I'll probably just book a trip to the Caribbean to unwind."

For his 14-day quarantine, Connor is hunkered down alone at a family friend's summer cottage in town. "I'm thrilled to be home," he says. "It's great to see my family, and to have them down the road. It's mostly creature comforts and a sense of security, in the health

# MP provides update on rapidly changing aid programs



**MP Tony Baldinelli Special to The Local** 

As your federal Member of Parliament, I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out and provide you all with an update during what can only be described as the most unprecedented of times.

The impact of COVID-19, on our community and throughout the nation, has resulted in governments at all levels coming together to provide the needed programs and services required to see us through this most difficult period.

With the House of C mons adjourned because of COVID-19, I have been working in the riding with my staff to assist constituents, small businesses, and our local industries. Constituents who need assistance on federal matters are always welcome to call or email my offices for help. Contact information can be found on my website,

www.tonybaldinellimp.ca.

One of the biggest challenges during COVID-19, has been ensuring we are able to share the most accurate of information, as new programs are created and rolled out to address the impacts of coronavirus. For that reason, I have been working closely with constituents and small businesses to share your concerns directly with my opposition colleagues and the federal government. Likewise, I have been actively sharing information provided by the federal government on social media. You can find the latest by visiting https://www.facebook. com/tonybaldinellimp/.

For constituents who have stopped working because of disappointing, but I remain COVID-19, the federal gov- hopeful they will understand ernment has launched the Ca- the significance of tourism for nadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). The application period began on Monday, April 6. More details about this program, such as eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found online at: https://www. canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ ei/cerb-application.html.

In addition, I have been

actively engaged in supporting constituents who have become stranded while travelling abroad. Although some constituents have already returned home, please be assured, I will continue to work with Global Affairs Canada and the federal government to help bring other local residents home. We have had cases in Nepal, Peru, Ecuador, Laos, India, and many other countries, as well as a number of individuals aboard cruise ships.

In addition to these efforts, I have continued to advocate for measures to support our local industries. For tourism, I have been advocating for an economic aid package. So far, the government response has been Niagara Falls and our riding.

For our local agriculture and wine industries, I am pleased to announce we were successful in persuading the federal government to allow border entry to temporary foreign workers and seasonal agricultural workers. Without these important workers, these industries would face an immediate and devastating Subsidy Program and Canada labour shortage that could have impacted our future food supply and security.

We will continue to work with the government and ensure adequate supports are put in place to support our tremendously important small and medium size enterprises. While the government has cre-

Emergency Business Account, more needs to be done to flow financial resources to our small business sector, more quickly.

I can also assure you, I will continue to advocate for the federal government to secure and supply more personal protective equipment for our frontline healthcare workers. I want ated the new 75 per cent Wage to thank them for all the work

they are doing to keep us safe and healthy during this international pandemic.

For the rest of us, please stay home whenever possible and practice safe social distancing. Also, always remember to wash your hands frequently. Together, we can prevent the spread of this deadly virus and if we follow the advice given to us by our medical officers, we will get through this together.

#### Most complaints 'misunderstandings'

#### **Continued from page 2**

who have finished their isolation period are allowed in groups of five, whether working or taking breaks. Any more than that, they are to travel separately and work separately in crews of five. Farmers are starting them out in vineyards, for example, of 10 rows apart for each crew, so they can keep their physical distance, says Wiens.

St. Catharines, and have been pruning all winter, he says, and people see them and think they should be in quarantine.

they think is unsafe, they he says. should contact the Town at tails are required to follow up.

mation."

There were some "growing pains" initially about filling Some of the crews are from large food orders for the workers, but grocery stores are getting on board and doing what they can to help, says Wiens.

Mexican workers arrived

If residents see something Saturday, sooner than expected,

Some are being quaran-905-468-3266, but specific detined in hotel rooms, when they're headed to farms where "If there's a complaint about there are workers who have ala bus at valu-mart and the bus ready finished their isolation, is gone when we get there, if and rooms will also be available we don't know where it's from, for anyone who becomes sick there isn't much we can do and requires isolation, Wiens about it. We need specific infor- says. He's purchased a trailer for his small group in case it's needed.

> "There are plenty of options out there," Wiens says. "Everything is moving along. The good news is the colder weather, so everything's a little further behind."





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# **Auchterlonie** on Astrology

#### **Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local**

While the pandemic shrinks the number of pages of the Local, Auchterlonie on Astrology will also downsize printed version at least.

on Wednesday, April 22: It's the new moon in Taurus – and sadly, we don't get to see it at 10:25 p.m. It's already below the horizon. It's called the pink moon courtesy of dust in the sky at sunset. My

guess is that because of the lack of activity by people due to the COVID-19 virus, we may get the palest pink Moon ever.

In any case, it will be stronger on the West Coast, to one paragraph, for the and will start a new month, setting up the beginning of The highlight this week is the end of the pandemic.

Check out my website and Podcast at www.looking upwithbill.com.

Also, please watch for the full week's version of Aucherlonie on Astrology online at notllocal.com.

#### Local hockey players provincial co-champs



**Bruce Keating** 

McClelland

Licenced Funeral Director



Cup of minor hockey, the coveted Red Hat award, and making them co-champions rather than finalists. (Photos supplied)



Kaleb Dietsch

Ed Friesen, Kaleb Dietsch and Logan Rossi are three local 13-year-olds who play AA hockey in Niagara Falls. Just as they were about to begin their major peewee Ontario Minor Hockey Association finals against Peterborough, all hockey was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The OMHA decided to call the two teams co-champions, earning them the Stanley

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### OCAL WORSHIP



Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 am on Sundays. There will be no in-person church service.

www.ccchurch.ca



#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

.59 Hams, 61 Rasp, 63 Ray, 65 Sad. Pixel, 52 Sushi, 53 Onion, 54 Wont, 55 Mag, 56 Echo, 57 Stab, 43 P p m, 44 Cusp, 45 Spa, 46 Curb, 49 Celine, 50 Phone, 51 33 Dyes, 34 Ants, 35 Leek, 36 Many, 37 Lbs, 40 lbn, 41 HRs, 22 Scar, 26 AND, 28 RN A, 29 Pot, 30 Lam, 31 Plea, 32 Harp, 8 F A A, 9 Aptly, 10 Soto, 11 Toil, 12 Dorm, 15 R C A, 20 Swan, Down: 1 Bikes, 2 Inlet, 3 Goal, 4 Bet, 5 Exhale, 6 Spell, 7 Soap,

Ghana, 68 Mena, 69 Shot, 70 Obey, 71 Sled, 72 P.I.N. 55 Mesh, 58 Phil, 60 Bruno, 62 Actor, 64 Axis, 66 As in, 67 Scraps, 47 Sky, 48 Pun, 49 C P Us, 50 PMs, 51 Pear, 52 Sow, Lara, 38 Lay, 39 Neat, 40 I B M, 41 Here, 42 Ten, 43 PC Bs, 45 25 Wall, 27 Cry, 29 Pane, 30 L A N, 31 Ph D, 34 Almond, 37 Okla, 17 The A, 18 Attic, 19 Reels, 21 Alps, 23 Lola, 24 M S T, Across: 1 Big, 4 Bess, 8 Fast, 12 Dino, 13 Expo, 14 A poor, 16

#### Sudoku solution from April 2, 2019

2	8	3	5	9	4	7	6
7	5	6	8	1	9	2	3
3	9	2	7	4	5	8	1
4	1	8	9	6	3	5	2
8	6	5	1	2	7	4	9
9	4	1	6	5	8	3	7
1	3	4	2	7	6	9	5
6	7	9	3	8	2	1	4
	7 3 5 4 8 9	7 5 3 9 5 2 4 1 8 6 9 4 1 3	7 5 6 3 9 2 5 2 7 4 1 8 8 6 5 9 4 1 1 3 4	7 5 6 8 3 9 2 7 5 2 7 4 4 1 8 9 8 6 5 1 9 4 1 6 1 3 4 2	7 5 6 8 1 3 9 2 7 4 5 2 7 4 3 4 1 8 9 6 8 6 5 1 2 9 4 1 6 5 1 3 4 2 7	7 5 6 8 1 9 3 9 2 7 4 5 5 2 7 4 3 1 4 1 8 9 6 3 8 6 5 1 2 7 9 4 1 6 5 8 1 3 4 2 7 6	2 8 3 5 9 4 7 7 5 6 8 1 9 2 3 9 2 7 4 5 8 5 2 7 4 3 1 6 4 1 8 9 6 3 5 8 6 5 1 2 7 4 9 4 1 6 5 8 3 1 3 4 2 7 6 9 6 7 9 3 8 2 1

#### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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67			+	1		68	$\vdash$	t			69			t
	70					71			+		72	1		

#### Across:

- Sizable
- First Lady before Mamie
- Speedy
- 12 Flintstone pet
- 13 Large international show
- "I am just --- boy, though my story's seldom told ..." (Simon and Garfunkel, "The Boxer")
- 16 North of Tex. 17 Take --- Train (Duke
- Ellington song)
- 18 Upper story
- 19 Totters
- 21 European mountain system 23 "Copacabana" showgirl
- 24 Tucson time
- 25 Barrier
- 27 Holler
- 29 Sheet of glass
- 30 Computer interconnection
- 31 Higher degree
- 34 Marzipan base 37 Tomb Raider --- Croft
- 38 Not ordained
- 39 Undiluted
- 40 Big Blue
- 41 This place
- 42 Sawbuck
- 43 Chemical pollutants banned in 1975
- 45 Leftovers
- 47 Space viewed from below

- 48 Play on words
- 49 Computer brains 50 Some foreign Government
- heads Tree with a partridge at
- Christmas
- Adult female pig 55 Interlock
- 58 --- Silvers or Collins
- 60 Singer/songwriter --- Mars
- 62 Thespian
- 64 Line about which rotation occurs
- 66 M --- mouse
- 67 Formerly the Gold Coast
- 68 Model and actress --- Suvari
- 69 Liquor measure
- 70 Adhere to
- 71 Toboggan
- 72 ATMID Down:

- E.g. Schwinns
- Arm of the sea
- 3 Target
- 4 Gamble
- Breathe out
- Incantation 6
- Cleaner
- Aviation safety grp. 8
- Fittingly "Licence to Kill" Bond girl
- Talisa ---
- 11 Labor strenuously 12 Campus housing

- 56 Reverberation

15 --- Building, now the

20 Graceful waterbird

28 Viral genetic material

32 Heavenly instrument

35 Emblem of Wales

22 Lasting mark

29 Mary Jane

30 Flee

26 Logical operator

31 Court statement

33 Fabric colors

34 Hill dwellers

36 Large number

37 2,000 to a ton

40 Arabic "son of"

41 Slugger's stat.

44 Turning point

46 Edge of a street

49 Singer --- Dion

52 Osaka fish dish

45 Health club

51 Screen dot

50 Ring

54 Habit

55 Journal

43 Common measure of pollutants

53 Aromatic bulbous vegetable

Comcast Building, NYC

- 57 Dagger thrust
- 59 Overactors
- 61 Coarse file
- 63 Flat fish
- 65 Down

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Thank you to our customers for your patience and understanding as we face these challenges together.

Phil Leboudec and Tony Hendriks





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